

AMENDMENTS

In the Claims:

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

1. (Currently Amended) A pulse wave measuring apparatus comprising:
a pressure sensor detecting an intra-arterial pressure waveform superficial of a body,
an acquiring unit acquiring a direct current component from a pressure value output from said pressure sensor, and
a defining unit including means for detecting a site where said direct current component is stable, for defining a pressurization force of pressing said pressure sensor against a body surface as an optimum pressurization force, when said direct current component is stable.
2. (Original) The pulse wave measuring apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said acquiring unit acquires said direct current component from an average value between predetermined intervals of pressure values output from said pressure sensor.
3. (Original) The pulse wave measuring apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said acquiring unit acquires said direct current component from an intermediate point between a highest value and a smallest value in a predetermined interval of pressure values output from said pressure sensor.
4. (Original) The pulse wave measuring apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said acquiring unit acquires said direct current component using a low pass filter on pressure values output from said pressure sensor.
5. (Original) The pulse wave measuring apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising a booster unit altering said pressurization force by applying pressure at one of a constant rate and an arbitrary rate.
6. (Original) The pulse wave measuring apparatus according to claim 5, further comprising a first adjustment unit comparing said direct current component at a time when said

optimum pressurization force is defined with a direct current component after altering said pressurization force, and carrying out adjustment such that the direct current component after altering said pressurization force does not exceed said direct current component at the time when said optimum pressurization force was defined.

7. (Original) The pulse wave measuring apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising a suction unit altering said pressurization force by reducing pressure at one of a constant rate and an arbitrary rate.

8. (Original) The pulse wave measuring apparatus according to claim 7, further comprising a first adjustment unit comparing said direct current component at a time when said optimum pressurization force is defined with a direct current component after altering said pressurization force, and carrying out adjustment such that the direct current component after altering said pressurization force does not exceed said direct current component at the time when said optimum pressurization force was defined.

9. (Currently Amended) The pulse wave measuring apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising:

a determination unit determining whether the pressurization force of said pressure sensor against said body surface is appropriate or not based on a sphygmographic waveform detected by said pressure sensor, and

~~a second~~ an adjustment unit adjusting said pressurization force after defining said optimum pressurization force based on said determination result.

10-13. (Canceled)

14. (Currently Amended) A ~~program-product of~~ computer-readable medium containing instructions for causing a computer to execute control of a pulse wave measuring apparatus including a pressure sensor detecting an intra-arterial pressure waveform superficial of a body, ~~causing the computer to execute the steps of~~ by a method comprising:

acquiring a direct current component from a pressure value output from said pressure sensor obtained from said pulse wave measuring apparatus, and

detecting a site where said direct current component is stable, for defining a pressurization force of pressing said pressure sensor against a body surface as an optimum pressurization force, when said direct current component is stable.

15. (Canceled)